common stock of The Baltimore and Annapolis Railroad Company in exchange therefor, to the end that the present mortgage indebtedness of the said The Baltimore and Annapolis Railroad Company should be reduced from approximately $2,000,000.00 to approximately $350,000.00; and

WHEREAS, Notwithstanding such sacrifices and losses on the part of said First and Second Mortgage Bondholders, and notwithstanding also the most careful and economical operation consistent with safety of the said The Baltimore and Annapolis Railroad Company, the revenues of the Railroad Company, after the payment of operating expenses, interest on the indebtedness above mentioned and after proper allowance for depreciation and for State, county and city taxes if paid, show a deficit of $26,673.06 from August 21, 1935, to December 31, 1938; and

WHEREAS, It is of the utmost importance for the welfare of the State, and particularly the communities served by said The Baltimore and Annapolis Railroad Company, that the operation of said Railroad be continued; and

WHEREAS, It is, in the Judgment of the General Assembly of Maryland, a wise and sound public policy to encourage the continued operation of said Railroad by the exemption herein provided.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the railroad property of The Baltimore and Annapolis Railroad Company, or so much thereof as may be used for railroad purposes by said Company, its successors and assigns, be exempt from all State taxes and charges, including contributions to the cause of the construction of railroad crossings, made or to be made under the authority of the State Roads Commission, and from all county and city taxes and charges in the nature of a tax for the years during which the property is so used, but not exceeding four (4) years, beginning January 1, 1940.

Approved May 11, 1939.

CHAPTER 131.

(House Bill 37)

AN ACT to repeal Section 231A of Article 16 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1935 Supplement), title "Chancery", sub-title "Pleadings, Practice and Process", as said